As we celebrate
90 years of excellence in optometry,
we sincerely thank you
for your continued support
Who we are

The World Council of Optometry (WCO) is an international optometric association founded in 1927

- Collectively representing over 200,000 optometrists in almost 60 countries through more than 200 affiliate, associate, corporate and individual memberships across six world regions

The WCO envisions a world where high quality eye health and vision care is accessible to all people.
What we do

• Facilitate the development of optometry around the world
• Support optometrists in promoting eye health and vision care as a human right through:
  - Advocacy
  - Education
  - Policy development
  - Humanitarian outreach
Why we do it

*Over 285 million people worldwide live with visual impairment due to eye diseases or uncorrected refractive errors*

- 39 million people are blind
- 80 percent of visual impairment including blindness is avoidable
- 9 out of 10 blind people live in low income countries
- 517 million are affected by functional presbyopia (Holden, B et al, 2008)

Source: WHO, 2010
An overview of our work

- Education
- Policy and Legislation
- Public Health
- Advocacy
- World Optometry Foundation
Our objectives

- **Enhancement and development of primary eye and vision care by optometrists**

- **Promotion of high standards of education and practice** while promoting international coordination of optometrists

- **Provision of support to aid programs** directed at providing eye and vision care to societies in need

- **Promotion of the advancement and science of optometry**
Our strategic partners

• **World Health Organization (WHO)**
  - WCO is the only global optometric body in official relationship with WHO

• **International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)**
  www.iapb.org
  - WCO is represented at the IAPB Global Board and in various of its committees

• **Optometry Giving Sight (OGS)**
  www.givingsight.org
  - WCO was a founding partner of OGS and represented on its Global Executive Board
  - OGS is the only global fundraising initiative specifically targeting the prevention of blindness and impaired vision due to uncorrected refractive error
WCO Member benefits

• *Access* to a worldwide optometric network

• *Opportunity* to participate in WCO committees

• *Be part of a global movement* to support the development of optometry

• *Contribute to setting and maintaining world standards of education and practice*
WCO Member benefits

• **Support the implementation** of the WHO Global Plan of Action 2014-2019

• **Access to high quality conferences** and events

• **Contribute to the development** of WCO’s advocacy agenda

• **Promote your activities** through WCO communications

• Access to the WCO Fellowship fund

Already a member?  
*Invite your colleagues to join.*

Not a member?  
*Now’s the time to become one!*  
Visit [www.worldcouncilofoptometry.org](http://www.worldcouncilofoptometry.org)
Join us for the 2\textsuperscript{nd} World Congress of Optometry

\textbf{September 11-13, 2017}
\textbf{Hyderabad, India}

- Biennial congress – a World Council of Optometry initiative
- In partnership with the Asia Pacific Council of Optometry and the India Vision Institute
- “Accessible, Quality Vision and Eye Health” theme
  - Targets a reduction in the prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25% by 2019
Why you should attend

• **Scientific track** – cutting edge research and clinical practice

• **Educator’s track** – unique platform to shape optometric education

• **Continuing Education** – Globally recognized U.S. COPE and UK CET accreditation
Why you should attend

• President’s Forum convenes presidents of national optometric associations, Deans of schools of optometry and key industry leaders

• Discuss the progress of optometry and shape the future of the profession across the world

• Expansive exhibit hall featuring the newest in products and technology

• Social events featuring the culture of the beautiful country of India

• The 2nd World Congress of Optometry promises to be an exciting and progressive meeting for global optometry you won’t want to miss
Why you should attend

• Join your fellow optometrists, educators, researchers and optometry students from around the world at the 2nd World Congress of Optometry – September 11-13, 2017
• Come share and learn with your colleagues in optometry

We hope to see you there!
For more information, visit www.worldcongressofoptometry.org
Thank you!

Together, we will do great things.